October 1883, a fragment of a tree-branch on which were many groups of *Urnatella*. The fragment, 3 inches by $\frac{1}{3}$ of an inch, was obtained in the fore bay at Fairmount. Around its middle, for about an inch in length, there were thirty separate groups of *Urnatella*, in nearly all consisting each of two stems, of unequal length, and devoid of terminal polyps. The stems diverged and curved downward and were quiescent, but were evidently living, as they exhibited slight sensitiveness to disturbance. The specimen was placed in an aquarium, exposed to the north light of a window, and in this position, at the moderate temperature of usual living-rooms, was kept during the winter. In March, the stems were observed all to have developed polyps at the distal end, in which condition they continue at the present time (April). Most stems are terminated by a single polyp, but a few exhibit a smaller polyp, supported on a cylindrical joint springing from the ante-penultimate joint of the stem, including the terminal polyp. The stems are quite irritable and bend in graceful curves from each other on the slightest disturbance. The longer stems even hang their heads in a single spiral turn. The longest stems consist of a dozen joints and measure about one eighth of an inch. The shortest stems exhibit one third the number of joints. The stems appear alternately white and black, the former colour corresponding with the thicker portion of the joints, the latter with the constricted portions. Many of the mature joints exhibit traces of the cup-like remains of attachment of branches, in most cases on one side only.

These specimens appear to indicate that, as in the other fresh-water Polyzoa, the polyps die on the approach of winter; but the headless stems appear to remain, securely anchored, and ready to reproduce the polyps in the spring. If portions of the stem are destroyed, the remaining joints are capable of reproducing the polyps, commonly from the summit of the terminal joint. Branches usually spring from the last one or two joints, newly produced from that which immediately supports the terminal polyp. Specimens also show that heads may start laterally from old or mature joints. Thus the latter appear to serve as the statoblasts of other freshwater Polyzoa, but ordinarily they do not become isolated from one another. As no specimens have been seen with stems consisting of more than a dozen joints, perhaps, after reaching this condition, the polyps become detached, to establish new groups.—*Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad.*, Nov. 18, 1884, p. 282.

Note on the Intelligence of a Cricket parasitized by a Gordius.

Dr. Henry C. McCook said that some remarks upon the habits of the cricket published by him had called forth an interesting communication from Mrs. C. W. Conger, of Groton, New York, the substance of which is as follows:—

"Some twenty-four years ago my husband and myself took

possession of a large old frame house on a farm which was a homestead for the largest, blackest, and most musical of the cricket kind. Early in the fall I began to be annoyed by finding one or more hair-snakes in the water-pail. Though I knew that there positively was nothing of the kind in the pail when it came in, yet a few minutes or an hour generally provided us with a more or less lively specimen. I had a horror of them, because of the dread lest the children should imbibe one with their frequent nips of the water; so I sat down one warm afternoon to watch the pail, to try to learn how the snakes came. In about ten minutes I saw a particularly plethoric cricket mount upon the edge of the pail, and, after some uneasy movements, bring the tip of the abdomen just beneath the water, and, with a few violent throes, expel a black mass, which fell slowly through the water and before it reached the bottom resolved itself into one of the worms. The cricket seemed exhausted by the horrid birth, and did not find strength to draw itself up on the edge of the pail for about eight minutes, and when it finally did so it tumbled to the floor and crawled off in a very rheumatic manner. After this discovery we used to amuse leisure hours by watching like operations until frost killed the crickets. I sometimes would crush large crickets, generally with the result that a tightly-coiled snake would be thrust out of a rupture just above the tip of the abdomen; but, whether the snake was not sufficiently developed, or because of its needing water rather than air to vitalize it, none of the snakes so produced showed any signs of life."

The water-snake alluded to is, of course, a species of our common *Gordius*, the same probably as that described, a number of years ago, by our distinguished President, Prof. Jos. Leidy. The fact that this animal is parasitic within the grasshopper the speaker had himself observed; it has been said also to be parasitic within spiders, and doubtless has for its host many of the Orthopterous genera. The point of greatest interest in the letter, Dr. McCook thought, is the fact that the crickets had evidently learned that the parasite infesting them required the water in order to make its egress, and had deliberately sought the suitable place and assumed the proper position (by inserting the abdomen beneath the surface of the water) necessary to insure that egress. It is a curious psychological question, How did the cricket obtain this knowledge? And the knowledge having been obtained, the cricket's subsequent behaviour presents an interesting fact in the study of insect intelligence.—*Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad.*, Nov. 25, 1884, p. 293.